

# HAMPTON

CITY PAGE

FEBRUARY 21

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

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## What does Bass Pro Shops mean for Hampton?

Last week City Council voted to pursue the next step in negotiations with Bass Pro Shops to locate as a major retail/entertainment tenant in The Power Plant of Hampton Roads. During this phase the city will conduct essential further economic studies.

Here are some details about Bass Pro's impact in other communities.

- In Grapevine, Texas, the city has seen its convention and tour business jump, with the number of tour buses swelling up from about 20 per year to about 600. The store was estimated to do \$100 million annually in 1999.
- In Springfield, Missouri, Bass Pro Shops is the #1 tourist destination in the state — attracting more than 4 million visitors annually, including 3,072 bus tours.
- In the Chicago area Bass Pro brought an estimated 30 percent increase in visitors at the local shopping mall. And outside St. Louis, Missouri small businesses report significantly improved business — as much as 30 percent on weekends.



Below are what some of the officials in current locations have to say about the company.

"Bass Pro Shops is a high profile retailer with a nationally recognized name brand; has higher sales per square foot than many other national retailers; has a customer base that is one of the most loyal in the retail industry; is a tourist attraction; and, has a strong financial record."

*PGAV Consultants, consultants to Oklahoma City*

"There is a definite and profound increase in sales and property tax along with the notoriety that follows a store with this much tourist appeal."

*Jackie Hawkes, director of economic development, Nashville, TN*

"This retail operation breeds other retailers in the area. The store is a tourist attraction onto themselves, not to mention the employment opportunities it has provided."

*Maurice Erving, director of economic development, Concord, NC*

Bass Pro Shops is a very large lifestyle retail tenant that sells a complete selection of fishing, marine, hunting, camping and golf gear, plus outdoor apparel and gifts. They offer top-quality, brand name merchandise including a large selection of boats and RVs.

For more information about Bass Pro Shops and the proposed deal, go to [www.hampton.gov](http://www.hampton.gov) and click on "What's Hot." To see what Bass Pro Shops are like, you can also watch The City Channel TV-47 at 5:30 p.m. daily.

## We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you think about City Page. Call us at 727-6893, or e-mail [pubcomm@hampton.gov](mailto:pubcomm@hampton.gov).

We'd like to hear from you soon!

## Neighborhood plans create focus

Neighborhood Planning is one of the ways that the city's Neighborhood Office assists in making neighborhoods places we proudly call home. This process is extremely beneficial to the neighborhoods who participate by helping citizens get to know their neighborhoods. It



also assists them in making truly strategic decisions when resources are scarce (the city's and their own).

It is not possible for every neighborhood to do everything they would like, so the process helps them to decide what is most important. Several neighborhoods are currently working on developing or implementing Neighborhood Plans: Greater Wythe, Aberdeen, Buckroe, Newtown, North King Street and Olde Wythe.

Olde Wythe will have a community meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m. at Armstrong Elementary to kick off the implementation of their Neighborhood Plan. Residents living in the Olde Wythe neighborhood should plan on attending to volunteer, or select the Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Design Teams.

For updates on all of the neighborhood planning efforts check the Neighborhood Web site; [www.hamptonvaneighborhoods.org](http://www.hamptonvaneighborhoods.org) or call the Neighborhood Office at 727-6460.



Are family and friends arriving — and the pressure to keep them entertained is on you? Give the "Gift of Travel." A Hampton Fun Escape is a terrific year-round gift to share with visiting guests. Or take your own Hampton Fun Escape!

With the purchase of the Hampton Fun Escapes Value Card you and your loved ones will receive cost-saving at Hampton attractions, golf courses, theatres and other participating partners. Your Value Card will come festively gift wrapped with a Hampton Visitor Guide, calendar of events and Hampton souvenirs.

Purchase your Value Card for just \$20 at the Hampton Visitor Center, 710 Settlers Landing Road in downtown Hampton.

For information call 727-1102 or e-mail [hct@hamptoncvb.com](mailto:hct@hamptoncvb.com)

## Calendar

### FEBRUARY 23

#### Slithering Snakes

Are you fascinated by snakes? Do they frighten you? At Sandy Bottom Nature Park you can learn many interesting facts about snakes and why they are to be welcomed, not feared. You will have the opportunity to touch and look at several snakes up close. This is a fun experience for the whole family. 10 - 11 a.m. SBNP, 1255 Big Bethel Road, 825-4657



### FEBRUARY 26

#### Wetlands Board

Regular meeting, 5 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 727-6140.

### FEBRUARY 27

#### City Council

Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 727-6315. Agendas on Web site: [hampton.gov/council](http://hampton.gov/council). Meetings broadcast live; re-broadcasts Feb. 28 at 10 a.m., and March 2 at 3 p.m. on The City Channel TV-47.

### FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 3

#### Circus at Coliseum

Don't miss the "Greatest Show on Earth," Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at Hampton Coliseum. Call for times and ticket prices, 838-4203, or visit their Web site at [www.hamptoncoliseum.org](http://www.hamptoncoliseum.org).

### MARCH 2

#### Steve Wilson Quartet

The many talents of Hampton native Steve Wilson (alto and soprano sax) have made him one of the most sought-after sidemen both in the studio and on the concert stage. In a recent New York Times poll, Steve was cited by his peers as one of the most likely young jazz artists to break out on his own. And break out he did with his debut release on Stretch Records (Generations). His second release, Passages, features Bruce Barth, Ed Howard and Adam Cruz with special guest Nicholas Payton. The American Theatre, 8 p.m., 722-ARTS, or [www.hampton.gov/arts](http://www.hampton.gov/arts).



### MARCH 5

#### Clean City Commission

Regular meeting, 3:30 p.m., Parks & Rec conference room, 5th fl., 727-6394.

### MARCH 6

#### School Board meeting

Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Forum at Jones Magnet Middle School, 1819 Nickerson Blvd., 896-8107.

### Children's Festival seeking volunteers

The International Children's Festival will be held in Hampton's Mill Point Park April 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival lets you experience the culture, history, arts and cuisine of Greece, Thailand, Germany, Ireland and many more. If you can help, or want to provide an exhibit on a country, please contact Parks & Recreation, 727-6784.



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Sign-up today and have the city and its information at your fingertips.

## Crime Line pays off

Peninsula Crime Line is a non-profit community program designed to help local police agencies in solving crimes and apprehending criminals. Statistics show it is successful.

Last year more than 30 percent of the calls to the Hampton Crime Line resulted in solved cases. And there were 42 individuals apprehended. All reward money to tipsters comes entirely from individuals, businesses and other donations. Crime Line helps the Police Division by saving staff time and funding spent on investigations.

For the last 20 years the anonymous tips to the Peninsula Crime Line have resulted in recovery of more than \$23 million in stolen property and illegal drugs. And 97 percent of the people arrested as a result of crime line tips are convicted.

Calls to the line are not traced or recorded and are strictly confidential. Since callers are anonymous, they are issued a confidential code so they can check on the status of information and receive their award. The awards are based on a scale that gives points for factors involved in a case. Rewards are voted on when tips lead to an arrest — up to \$1,000 and callers never have to testify.

The City Channel TV-47 is airing "Wanted Posters" from Hampton Police to help the community identify wanted criminals to report to the police.

The number for Crime Line in Hampton Roads is 1-888-LOCK-U-UP. For information on Hampton's program, call 727-6638 or visit [www.hampton.gov/police](http://www.hampton.gov/police).

## Ask 311!

### Q. Why did the Magruder Blvd bridge close?

A. Due to construction, the bridge is closed to all traffic for about one year. During that time, the existing bridge will be demolished and a taller, wider bridge will be built in its place. This closure will impact only drivers who use the Magruder Boulevard Bridge en route to I-64 eastbound or the Todd's Lane/Cunningham Connector. The Magruder Boulevard exit off of I-64 westbound will not be affected.

The bridge improvement is part of the larger Coliseum Central Highway Improvement Project.

Original construction plans called for the bridge to be built in two phases, allowing for one lane of the bridge to remain open. However, reducing the Magruder Boulevard Bridge to one lane would force traffic to drive a narrow and curved road just a few feet from major construction work. Also, rebuilding one lane at a time could take up to two years of construction.

Because of safety concerns and the potential for greatly reduced construction time, VDOT, the city of Hampton and the project contractor, E.V. Williams, Inc., agreed the bridge should be closed to all traffic until rebuilding is complete.

The shortened construction time will reduce the cost to build the bridge. The savings will be reinvested in physical improvements and beautification for the area surrounding the bridge.

Alternate routes have been selected and marked. They are also available at [www.coliseumcentral.com](http://www.coliseumcentral.com) or by calling (757) 825-7810.

Hampton's 311 Customer Call Center will provide answers to frequently asked questions in this column of City Page. To reach the center, dial 3-1-1; on cell phones or outside of Hampton dial 727-8311.



## Tune In!

Interested in finding out more about your Fire and Rescue Division? Watch Spotlight: Fire and Rescue at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily on The City Channel TV-47.

## Hampton leads Peninsula in number of nationally certified teachers

The Hampton School Division has seven National Board Certified teachers — more than any other school division on the Virginia Peninsula.

In December Joan Davis, the division's coordinator of professional development, learned that five Hampton educators had met the nation's top certification standards.

Certification is a rigorous process that takes close to a year to complete. These five teachers were the only public school educators on the Peninsula to earn the honor this year; however they join the ranks with two other Hampton teachers who previously earned certification.

The five educators who were board certified this year are Beth Hoer, Bethel High School; Nancy Sweat, Jones Magnet Middle School; Jonathan Lind, Hampton High School; and Tiffany Sanzo and Tyrus Woodard at Kecoughtan High School.

Two Hampton teachers previously reaching National Board Certification are Margaret Feuerbacher, Hampton Harbour Academy and Diane Buchanan, Eaton Fundamental Middle School. Feuerbacher led the way for the national distinction when she became Hampton's first board certified educator in the 1999-2000 school year.



Margaret Feuerbacher was the school division's first nationally certified educator.

